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THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

**CONGRESS.**—The Senate was not in session. House: A modified "money trust" investigation resolution was adopted by a vote of 270 to 8.  
**FOREIGN.**—Italian warships bombarded Beirut, Syria, killing sixty persons and wounding a large number of others; the American college and missions were unharmed. Mexican rebels were reported threatening an attack on the city of Mexico. The Mexican Government received a telegram from Emilio Vasquez Gomez urging him to resign the Presidency. British mine owners adhered to their demand for a strike on the day of the 25th. It was announced that the government was actively engaged in finding a ground for deferring the threatened strike.

It was learned at Paris that Italian force was defeated by the Turks and Arabs at Tripoli. Many persons were frozen to death in a snowstorm in Asiatic Russia.  
**DOMESTIC.**—President Taft branded as falsehoods statements that in his Lincoln Day speech he said "the people are not fitted for self-government." Colonel Roosevelt arrived in Boston and was greeted by a cheering crowd. The sub-committee on the Chicago Convention planned the rearrangement of the Chicago Coliseum to assure comfort to the delegates. Edward Hines, whose membership in the Chicago Convention was cancelled, began suit against Clarence S. Funk for \$100,000 for alleged slander. An Easton, Penn., dispatch said that the habeas corpus action to free Mrs. Howard (Maxwell) of Brooklyn, charged with the murder of her husband, was dismissed. The Chicago Convention was held at the Metropolitan Club luncheon. Elijah M. Allen, a rich importer, who married a stenographer of twenty months ago, died at St. Vincent's hospital, his wife having been taken ill on their honeymoon trip. The Admiral Realty Company brought what is supposed to be a test suit in the interest of financiers restricting city street widening to preferential payments on the intermingling of receipts in any contracts for new subways made with the Interborough and the Brooklyn Rapid Transit companies. The Commercial Union arrived in New York and a half late, after encountering unusually stormy weather; a number of notable persons were on board. The committee of the United Mine Workers, which is to meet at the city, arrived after a long and arduous journey.

**THE WEATHER.**—Indications for today: Unsettled. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 50 degrees; lowest, 30.

**THE STEPHENSON CASE.**  
The "Evening Post" attacks the report of the majority of the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections in the Stephenson case on the ground that it is inconsistent. Undoubtedly there is some superficial basis for such a charge. The majority thus put itself on record.

The amount of money expended by Mr. Stephenson, Mr. Cook, Mr. Hutton and Mr. McConville in the primary campaign was so extravagant and the expenditures made by and on behalf of these gentlemen were made with such reckless disregard of propriety that they have attracted the attention of the public. Such expenditures were in violation of the fundamental principles underlying our system of government, which contemplated the selection of candidates by the electors, not the selection of the electors by the candidates.

Yet "The Post" does not take sufficient account of the reasoning which supported the majority's conclusion that Mr. Stephenson's title was not invalidly by the excessive amount of money admitted spent by him in the primary. The majority held that the primary for the designation of party candidates for United States Senator could not have the same legal status as a primary for the election of state officers, since the state was not qualified to prescribe means for the election of a Senator at variance with the federal law governing the same. The primary, in its opinion, was not legally binding in any way upon the Legislature. It was merely a sort of straw vote which the representatives of the various parties in the State Legislature could follow or ignore, as they saw fit. Many Republican members of the Legislature did, in fact, ignore the primary result and voted against Mr. Stephenson.

The majority of the committee brought out that phase of its judgment clearly when it said: "Were a candidate for a 'state office in Wisconsin to conduct a campaign in the manner in which the 'United States Senate were conducted, it would be difficult to justify such conduct under the law of the state.' But Chairman Heyburn and those who sided with him were of the opinion that the provisions of the primary statute could not hold in relation to an office which it was beyond the state's province to declare should be filled by resort to the primary method."

It is also extravagant to say, as "The Post" does, that "if the Senate ratifies the majority report it will by so much 'give license to the rich men of the country to buy all the seats in that body.' Our neighbor forgets that Congress at the last session passed a corrupt practices and publicity law governing the election and designation of Representatives and Senators and put a limit of \$10,000 on the sum which any aspirant for the Senate may expend or promise in promoting his own election. No repetition of the Stephenson scandal will be

possible under this law, and any candidate confessing to spending more than \$10,000 will lose his seat on his own showing.

The Stephenson case brings to an end an era of laxity in the restraint of expenditure for the capture of seats in the United States Senate. Whichever way it is settled, its settlement will not endanger the future, which is now reasonably secure.

**UNFORTUNATE MR. DIX.**

In the circumstances surrounding the severance of his diplomatic relations with Murphy, Governor Dix has been as unfortunate as he always is in his connection with the Tammany boss. There has scarcely been an instance in all the previous occasions of dike and deal between the "organization" and the Governor when he would not have enhanced his favor with the public and begun to establish a reputation for independence if he had opposed the thing Tammany stood for or forced Tammany into the position of fighting the thing he advocated. His break with Murphy, though, over the appointment of Messrs. Riggs and Rissell to the vacancies in the Public Service commissions cannot gain him any credit, even when it does present him to the public as the probable victim of the machine's crushing power. The public cannot feel any great amount of sympathy for, and certainly cannot admire, the individual who fools with a hand. If the Governor had stood out against Tammany's infamous elections law, which the Court of Appeals disallowed, or Tammany's farcical "direct primary law," which is creating political chaos in the state because of its half-baked provisions, there would have been general acknowledgment that he was acting for the public interest in his own political harm within his party's organization. But the Governor calmly and obligingly obeyed the boss's commands in those instances and many more. He presented a perfect picture of a machine Executive in attendance on his boss's nod, until in a petty squabble over patronage Murphy undertook to admonish him to be more speedy in obedience by putting at the head of the Democratic State Committee a politician who would regard his desires rather than the Governor's ambitions of political advancement in the future.

Whatever the personal virtues of Messrs. Riggs and Rissell, it will be hard for the Governor to demonstrate that they have any striking qualifications for the places to which he has appointed them. Mr. Riggs's experience and associations have been such that his appointment is even more an injection of politics into the commission than was that of Mr. Cram. The fact that Mr. Rissell as attorney and stockholder engaged to promote the business of a corporation operating under a notorious "grab" charter indicates the possession of a point of view not ordinarily considered desirable in one chosen to supervise and regulate public service corporations for the state. And over these appointments the Governor has broken with Murphy. Unfortunate Mr. Dix! After conferring on Murphy almost every blessing which could flow from the Executive Chamber, the Governor in quarrelling with him at last on such grounds almost rehabilitates the boss and turns him into a protector of the public's interests.

**PROMOTING CIVILIZATION.**

General T. Coleman du Pont, in proposing to devote a large part of his fortune to building good roads for Delaware, has chosen an interesting variation of the ordinary methods of philanthropy. In the announcement of his intention, as telegraphed from Wilmington, he expressed the conviction that "good roads will do more good than libraries, hospitals, and, in fact, than any of the 'usual forms of philanthropy.'"

The miraculous growth of railroads in this country and their assumption of the principal burdens of commerce blinded most of the people, until the advent of the automobile, to the imperative need for better common highways. The result has been a congestion of population at railroad centres and along railroad lines, with the consequent desertion or degeneration and non-development of more remote and inaccessible communities. The mountains of Kentucky and Tennessee contain a population whose character bears eloquent testimony to the truth that civilization hugs the high road as vegetation does water.

Every rural state and what state is not predominantly rural in area? suffers from generations of indifference to this same truth. Good highways are but irrigating canals for the better growth of good citizenship.

**GOODBYE TO WINTER.**

Alaska should not rejoice too prematurely over the report that winter has been banished forever from the territorial calendar. Dispatches from Washington say that straw hats and dusters are now being worn in the chief population centres of the Yukon Valley, even by those who have hitherto been noted for a stern observance of seasonal fashions. The hydrographic office of the navy is credited with having thrown out the suggestion that the Japanese current, annoyed at frequent seismic disturbances in the Aleutian Islands, has turned its flow toward the Alaska coast, subduing the former sub-Arctic rigors of that region and converting it into a climatic duplicate of Oregon and California. It is said that no snow has fallen in Southern Alaska since Christmas, and we may expect to hear when later bulletins come that the carnival was celebrated there with bombardments of rose leaves, just as it is celebrated along the sheltered shores of the Riviera.

We hope that the reported transformation from bearskin suits and caps to airy linen and Panama hats may not prove to be a mere miscarriage of Arctic fancy. But on our own stern and rock-bound Atlantic coast we have been so often fed on baseless prophecies of an amelioration of climate due to the curving in of the Gulf Stream that we are inclined to be suspicious of vagrancies attributed to ancient and conservative ocean currents. Sometimes we have a mild winter, and then the oldest inhabitants announce that the old-fashioned schedule of seasons has been disarranged for good. Yet we don't sell our overcoats or take out our furnaces. And when a winter like that of 1912 comes along, with temperatures falling repeatedly below zero, even the oldest inhabitants take to the woods or else admit that their aspersions on the Gulf Stream were wholly unwarranted.

Who will guarantee that the Japanese current will stick to its newly assumed obligation to thaw out Alaska? May it never grow weary of washing our Arctic possessions with lukewarm surf! Yet with all our faith in its good intentions we should hate to be cast away in the

Yukon Valley just now with no more extensive wardrobe than a straw hat and a linen duster.

**CAVALRY HORSES.**

Major General Leonard Wood made so earnest and withal so eloquent a plea for the horse at the sportsmen's dinner the other night as to carry conviction that the remount question has come to be a serious problem in the army. A standard has been set for cavalry horses, and the standard, from very necessity, is so high that breeders see danger of a real famine, even without the demands that a war would bring. Pertinent facts and figures so pointedly indicate the absolute importance of the thoroughbred strain in the breeding of horses qualified for remounts that General Wood in a recommendation to Congress not so long ago expressed the opinion that the exportation of thoroughbred stock from these shores was beginning to assume the proportions of a national calamity. Under the circumstances, then, the organization of the United States Cavalry and Artillery Remount Association must be applauded, as it is to be hoped that its influence will be far-reaching in bettering conditions which now confront the War Department in buying cavalry horses.

There are some who see in the movement only an effort to establish a more favorable sentiment toward racing, but, in truth, the decline of racing and the breaking up of so many breeding farms only emphasized a situation that must be deplored. Concerted effort to improve and encourage horse breeding is not necessarily allied to the professional gambling which so many racing men have proclaimed essential to the "improvement of the breed." One of the leading horse dealers in this country said recently that he had agents all through the West with instructions to buy on sight any horse that came up to the standard, in order to supply 125 each year to the Police Department of this city. No other argument is needed to show how few of the twenty-two million horses in this country are of the type so necessary for the proper mounting of the cavalry or the police.

**ITALY'S PLAN OF CAMPAIGN.**

The bombardment of Beirut by the Italian navy will doubtless be defended by the Italian government as an act of war. When two nations are at war with each other they are at war all over, at every point at which their belligerents may come in contact. Beirut is, or was, moreover, a fortified place, with fortifications which it would take a howitzer at least an hour or two to demolish; and it has, or had, a garrison of not far from the sum total of a thousand soldiers. Naturally, therefore, it was a fair target for hostile guns. It is agreeable to know that none of the numerous American residents of the city was killed and that no damage was inflicted upon the several American institutions there which are such important forces for the civilization of Syria. The Italian fleet probably suffered not so much as a scratch, unless self-inflicted. As for the Turks and Syrians, they may be thankful that the bombardment was of brief duration, since a few minutes of it seems to have been fatal to a large number of them.

The episode, following closely upon Italy's formal proclamation of the annexation of all that remained of the Turkish Empire in Africa, involves some interesting suggestions concerning the Italian plan of campaign. For weeks past there has been no apparent activity on the part of the Italian army in Tripoli and Cyrene, and the not unreasonable suspicion has arisen that it has no stomach for an inland expedition of conquest, which might result somewhat like the expedition into Abyssinia. Yet it would be surprising to remain huddled along the coast and at the same time pretend to have annexed the unconquered inland regions. Apparently, then, the Italian plan is to compel Turkey to surrender the inland regions of Africa without their being actually invaded and forcibly seized, by the simple expedient of attacking her wherever she is vulnerable to the guns of Italian warships. The Italian command of the sea is complete, and of course all Turkish coast cities are at the mercy of Italian guns. If the Dardanelles are not entered at least Samsun, Smyrna, Haifa, Jaffa and other places may share the fate of Beirut.

Such tactics might well bring Turkey to terms and constrain her to offer to give Italy full title to Tripoli and Cyrene in return for the sparing of her European and Asian coast cities. There might, however, be serious danger of complications with other powers if Italy should actually attack these places, for in all of them there are large non-Turkish interests. Seeing the extent, too, to which non-combatants would inevitably suffer in it, such a campaign on any general scale would savor unpleasantly of a reversion to the less humane military methods of former ages. It would certainly be more agreeable to the world to see the belligerent powers compose their differences without so grave and ominous a recourse.

**NEW YORK AND THE CANALS.**

A timely reminder is given by the Dock Commissioner of this city of the interest of New York in the two great canals which are now rapidly approaching completion and of the urgent desirability of setting the harbor in order so as to be ready to receive and handle with facility the largely increased volume of commerce which those waterways will bring hither. We must assume that they will bring it. Certainly the enlarged Erie Canal would be a grave disappointment if it did not convey to this city a great amount of freight. As for the Panama Canal, if a dilatory Congress ever provides for its management and terms of use it may be expected to increase commerce generally at Atlantic and Gulf ports, and most of all to increase it at the port which has an almost incomparable primacy above all others. The question is: How is New York prepared to deal with this access of business?

Thus far practically nothing has been done. No comprehensive plan for the organization and administration of the port has been adopted by the city, although, says Mr. Tomkins, one has been prepared by the Dock Department. There is an idea that the port is badly congested; which is not true. Congestion exists at only one part of the waterfront, and that is because of imperfect distribution, since elsewhere in the harbor there is room to spare. Of course, the lack of proper distribution is due chiefly to two causes. One is the failure to improve the vacant stretches of waterfront so as to make them available for shipping, and the other, perhaps more important, is the lack of railroad and other land connections with those parts. Ships cannot be expected to land where there are no

docks, and even the best of docks would not entice them to tie up where there were no adjacent warehouses or railroads.

The many miles of unimproved waterfront in this city need merely the building of piers and warehouses and the construction of connecting lines of land transportation to give welcome berths to the shipping which is now overcrowded along the North River and to all the additional shipping which the opening of the canals may bring hither. We say "merely" that it is needed, not because the providing of it would not be a colossal task, but because, great as it would be, it must be regarded as essential to the continued prosperity of the port, and as, after all, a small thing compared with the aggregate of the commercial interests which are thus to be served and promoted. We have repeatedly urged that Congress should do its duty in fixing rates of tolls at Panama and providing for the regulation and control of the canal. It is no less incumbent upon New York City to prepare to receive both the inland and the ocean borne commerce which these highways will bring to her harbor gates.

The sky line seems to be the only "dead line" against burglars and hold-up men which this city now enjoys.

Why should judges abuse the police for arresting subway smokers? Subway smoking is not a capital offense, and perhaps just now the police might be profitably employed in other directions, but it is nevertheless an offense and a nuisance, and if the authorities cannot stop daily robberies they should be praised, not blamed, for such moderate accomplishments as they can compass.

Mr. Bryan announces his readiness to support "a true Democrat" for the Presidency. But who outside of the "Commoner" sanctum shall define a "true Democrat"?

It is a pity that there should be cause for sending more troops to the Texas-Mexico border, but since the cause exists the troops must be sent. It is to be hoped that the troubles of our southern neighbor will soon be settled without any more grave complications, but the interests involved are so great that this country cannot afford not to be prepared as fully as possible for anything which may occur.

The mere looting of a jewelry store does not cast any reflection upon New York's title as the most orderly and law-abiding city under the sun, but for the looters to leave a humorous note pinned to the door—that is flat sedition!

Consul, the educated chimpanzee, almost destroyed a woman's headgear the other day while attempting to appropriate it for his own purposes. It would be interesting if some expert in chimpanzee psychology should tell us whether Consul's action was intended as a naïve tribute to the embellishing art of the milliner or as a moral rebuke to the excesses and atrocities at which even humans sometimes revolt when they are compelled to contemplate the feminine hat.

**THE TALK OF THE DAY.**

A retired merchant who was well known in the jobbing branch in New York fifteen years ago recently spent some time at Atlantic City, where he took his wife for rest and change of scene, and where he had an unusually pleasant experience. "We met there," so he tells the story, "a man whom I had known in a business way many years ago. He and his wife walked and roller skated together, and we seemed to enjoy our company as much as we did theirs. On the day before we came away Mr. Blank called me into the billiard room, handed me an envelope addressed to me at my New York home and said: 'I intended to bring you this when our visit here was over and before we went back to our home out West.' The envelope contained a check for a balance which the man owed when his business collapsed in 1894, with interest to date. 'So glad I met you,' he added, 'for I saved the surface of your house.'"

"I have always been interested," said little Binks, "in the utilization of waste. Now, where do you suppose all these burnt-out light bulbs go? They are sent to the 'don't know' place, the Genial Philosopher, 'but if they go where most people consign them there must be a terrible smell of rubber in the hereafter.'"

**THE MARTIANS.**

Professor Perrier, of France, in looking at the stars, agrees with what our Lowell says about canals on Mars. And, furthermore, goes on to say there are lots of plants and flowers. And human beings like ourselves, with equal reasoning powers. Yet when it comes to size, he says, the Martians are also giants. And as to shape they differ much from mortals, in that they have no heads. But with noses large, enormous ears, protruding eyes of blue, skinny legs and feet too small to wear the smallest shoe. And yet they have no waist nor neck, so wear no corsets, belts nor ties. And though on Mars they look just right, if seen on earth we'd call them guys.

**APOLGIZING TO MURDERERS.**

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
Sir: I heartily agree with your correspondent, "Jerseyman," in what he says in regard to pardoning the murderers of the Boston girl. Their crime was of the most dastardly, cowardly, cruel and revolting nature. Under our statute it is punishable with death. To pardon them now, after they have served only ten years of their light sentence, would be an outrage on the community.

**DR. PALLER'S ARTICLE PRAISED.**

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
Sir: The publication of Dr. Paller's article on socialism was a matter of considerable interest to many who, like myself, desire to have the real facts brought forward in discussions on this important question. Men and women who would be shocked and repelled by the essential and fundamental principles of this creed, and horrified by the conditions that would be brought about by putting them into practice, listen eagerly and with sympathetic interest to overwrought statements of present day economic conditions made by socialists, and are often stirred to declare that some measures should be taken to make these bad conditions better. The socialists have no vested and exclusive right of property in sympathy for human suffering and resentment toward human injustice. Yet it is by arousing such feelings that they seek to advance their cause. I am sure that the socialists make the first well-calculated advances of their propaganda. For their reason is to think it is in the interests of truth, and of frankness and fairness of debate on public questions, to consider that you have done a good thing in giving it the publicity of your pages. N. B. LUMME.  
New Rochelle, N. Y., Feb. 23, 1912.

pose upon themselves, are enforced more vigorously than the rules of the faculty."

**ENLISTING THE MURDERERS**

Up to Them to Abolish Capital Punishment, Says Writer.  
To the Editor of The Tribune.  
Sir: I consider that ex-Ambassador Andrew D. White performs, through The Tribune, a notable public service in calling attention to the appalling American record of murder, and in pointing out so clearly, by comparison with other civilized lands, that the great reason why five times as many murders are committed here as in any other such nation is that we do not honestly or efficiently enforce the law. We make a half-hearted pretence at capital punishment; and Boston has developed among its innumerable cults one which has for its aim organized opposition to capital punishment. A recent hearing at the capital brought out a most astonishing mixture of pettifoggery and puerility and total ignoring of record, facts and common sense.

New England has within its own borders an example of the effect of abolishing capital punishment. Rhode Island and Maine have done it. These have a preponderant rural element combined with a better class urban population. The average law-abidingness is high; the records show a total of 1,131 imprisonments for every 1,000,000 in 1911. The other four New England states had 1,357 for each 1,000,000 in 1911. More, but the murder record in Rhode Island and Maine was 173 per cent more than in the other four, according to United States census records.

The great need is greater celerity and certainty in punishment, not the emancipation of law. There can be no possible doubt that our national slackness in administration of law has produced a murder rate which can be matched only in countries which we consider not more than half-civilized. There is the place to begin; the murderers themselves can abolish capital punishment at any time; theirs should be the initiative.

**THE OVERMAN OF THE HOUSE.**

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
Sir: Referring to the Hay-Hobson-Fitzgerald affair in the House yesterday, I for one strongly resent the insult offered to Mr. Hobson by Messrs. Hay and Fitzgerald and the light and airy manner in which the House treated the matter. To use the words "false" and "cowardly" in referring to a man like Mr. Hobson, as Hay and Fitzgerald did the temerity to do, only intensifies, if that is possible, the contempt felt by a vast majority of the American people for a small majority of their representatives, so-called. They also show the necessity for direct legislation and the recall of fake legislators.

Messrs. Hay and Fitzgerald ought to have intelligence enough to know that the man who sank the Merrimac could do nothing cowardly or false. To those of us whose judgment is not jaundiced by political jealousy, who wear no corporation's collar and have no political axe to grind, Mr. Hobson appears so different from his colleagues as to suggest higher species. He is, to say the least, the overman of the House.

**THE BEST IN AMERICA.**

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
Sir: For some time I have been tempted to compliment the excellent cartoons appearing in your paper. I know of none others so genuinely artistic on this side of the Atlantic, excepting, perhaps, the lively work of My Hayer in the Sunday "Times," which still is less original than that of Boardman Robinson.

It is just such a man that made the Pacific "J. A. Bennett au Reure" the favorite of Europe. FERDINAND EARLE.  
Monroe, N. Y., Feb. 22, 1912.

**DISHONORING COL. ROOSEVELT.**

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
Sir: I am not one of those who believe that Mr. Roosevelt is trying to displace President Taft, disrupt the Republican party and discredit the work of centuries in the upbuilding of this great Republic. It is represented to the people of this country in the present crisis that we may have to begin over again much of the great work that started with our first President. Those who are trying to discredit and overthrow President Taft shall find it difficult to produce something other than a lack of advertisement on the part of the President before the thinking people of this country will see him turned out in the midst of important legislation that no President could complete in four years. It is highly creditable to those who are trying to undermine him. The great majority of those opposing him do not find one act of his worthy of commendation. How can they expect the man and his long, tedious, useful years of public life, and feel so toward him? No man in the country knows better than Mr. Roosevelt that the overthrow of Taft at this time means the disruption of the Republican party.

Is Mr. Roosevelt to be responsible for so great a calamity? Were it possible for him to step into the Presidency with the backbone of his party with him, and with those sensible and sincere Progressives of whom he would be with Taft if they understood him better, he could advance the cause of his party as he did when at his head. But that cannot be now. Those who urge Mr. Roosevelt into an ungracious and bitter political contest with his friend, with the same vehemence that he urged that friend into the Presidency do him great dishonor, and could result only in disaster.

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**People and Social Incidents**

**AT THE WHITE HOUSE.**

(From The Tribune Bureau.)  
Washington, Feb. 24.—The President, the Secretary of War and Assistant Secretary Wilson discussed the Mexican situation at length to-day. Following the conference the 22d Infantry and two batteries of the 3d Field Artillery were ordered to El Paso. In a statement issued at the White House to-day the President characterized as falsehoods the stories and statements "assiduously circulated by persons and papers opposed to the President" quoting him as saying that "the people are not fitted for self-government." What Mr. Taft did say was: "There are those of us who do not believe that all people are fitted for popular government."

A large delegation of Delaware lawyers, headed by Senator Du Pont and Representative Heald, urged the appointment of Judge Edward G. Bradford, of the District Court of Delaware, to succeed Judge William M. Manning, of the 3d Circuit. Representative Campbell assured the President that, despite the opposition to him in Kansas, he would get a considerable portion of the delegation. Mr. Campbell also said that the President is growing stronger every day in the West.

The South Carolina delegation will be instructed for President Taft. The "black and tans" will hold their state convention next Thursday, and the "hly whites" will hold theirs a little later, but both factions will choose Taft delegates.

President Taft was the guest of honor at a luncheon given by Assistant Secretary Beekman Winthrop to-day. President Lowell of Harvard University was present. Among the White House callers were Senators Gallinger, Crawford, Page, Du Pont, Bryan, Fletcher, Bacon and Martin, ex-Senators Burrows and Aldrich, Representatives Tilden, Hinds, Morrison, Kahn, Stearns, Madden, Townner, Humphreys and Powers, Wayne MacVeagh and George R. Sheldon.

The President entertained at dinner to-night the two Senators and the Republican Representatives from Michigan and ex-Representatives Denby and Diekmann, later going to the annual dinner of the Yale Alumni Association.

Mrs. Taft, accompanied by Miss Taft and the members of Miss Taft's week-end house party, Miss Arthur, Miss Lewis and Miss Farley, who arrived last night; Miss Marion Crane, who arrived this afternoon, and Miss Katherine Anderson, occupied a box at the Belasco to-night to hear De Wolf Hopper in "Pinafore."

Mrs. Taft has issued invitations for the first of her regular Lenten musicals on Friday, March 1, March 15 and 29 are the two following dates. Preceding the first musical President and Mrs. Taft will entertain a dinner party, including the Governor of Maryland.

Mrs. Taft poured tea in the Red Room this afternoon for Senators and Mrs. William Brewster and their house guests, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Covode and Miss Jewell, of Grand Rapids, Mich. Miss Jewell is the niece of Mrs. Smith.

**THE CABINET.**

(From The Tribune Bureau.)  
Washington, Feb. 24.—The Secretary of the Treasury and Mr. MacVeagh will entertain guests at luncheon to-morrow. The Secretary of Commerce and Labor returned this morning from Brooklyn, where he went to deliver an address. The Secretary of War and Mrs. Stimson will entertain the President and Mrs. Taft at dinner on Thursday night, thus closing the series of dinner parties given by members of the Cabinet in honor of the President and Mrs. Taft. The Secretary and Mrs. Stimson have not entertained this season, as they are in deep mourning.

**THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.**

(From The Tribune Bureau.)  
Washington, Feb. 24.—The French Ambassador will return to-morrow from Chicago, where he went to deliver several addresses and to meet some social engagements. The Ambassador and Mme. de Monroville will go to Baltimore on Thursday, to be the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Marburg, who will entertain for them at dinner. Later they will occupy a box at the opera with Mr. and Mrs. Marburg.

The Brazilian Ambassador has issued invitations for a dinner on March 4. The Spanish Minister and Señora de Riano entertained a number of guests at dinner to-night.

Mr. Caftanoglu, Greek chargé d'affaires, has gone to New York and Boston and will be absent for a week. Albert Kienlin, German second secretary, and Mrs. Kienlin will return from New York to-morrow.

**IN WASHINGTON SOCIETY.**

(From The Tribune Bureau.)  
Washington, Feb. 24.—The Russian Ambassador and Mme. Bakmeteff and the Attorney General and Mrs. Wickersham were the guests at dinner to-night of Mrs. Hunt Slater. Her other guests were Mrs. John J. Emery, of New York; Frau von Herwarth, Brigadier General and Mrs. Clara Edwards, Mr. de Bach, Russian second secretary; Mr. and Mrs. Walter De Nager, Miss Margaret Draper and Kirk Dieckrick.

The Assistant Secretary of State and Mrs. Huntington Wilson entertained at luncheon to-day in compliment to the recently appointed secretaries in the diplomatic service and their wives. There were eighteen guests.

Judge and Mrs. Robert M. Montgomery entertained Senator and Mrs. William Alden Smith and their house guests, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Covode and Miss Agnes Jewell, of Grand Rapids, Mich., at dinner to-night. Their other guests were Judge and Mrs. Orian M. Barber, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Montgomery, Mrs. Haviland, of New York, and Mrs. Ayres.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Townsend entertained at luncheon to-day for Mrs. Stickey and Miss Mabel Gerry, of New York, who are at the New Willard. Among their other guests were a number of diplomats. Representative Butler Ames entertained at dinner last night for Mrs. Stickey and Miss Gerry, and to-morrow they will be guests at luncheon of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Walter McLean.

Mr. Marshall Field entertained a large dinner party to-night, Mrs. Joseph Hobson entertained at luncheon and Senator Du Pont entertained a dinner party. The Solicitor for the State Department and Mrs. Chandler Anderson entertained at dinner, and General and Mrs. William H. Carter were among the numerous dinner hosts.

Miss Eleanor Ridgely gave a dinner at the Chevy Chase Club to-night for Miss Selton, of Chicago. Dancing followed. Miss Alma Rugles entertained at luncheon to-day for Miss Frances Gamble, of New York, who is the guest of her uncle and aunt, the Secretary of War and Mrs. Stimson.

Mr. and Mrs. McLean will entertain the President and Mrs. Taft at dinner on March 1. The dinner will be followed by a musical, when Mme. Alina Gluck, soprano; Mr. Whitehill, baritone, and Sassoli, harpist, of the Metropolitan Opera Company, will give the programme.

**NEW YORK SOCIETY.**

Lent, with the opera on four nights of the week as the most popular rendezvous of society, with theatre parties, musicals, entertainments of every conceivable character for the benefit of favorite charities, and with quite a number of informal dances, is far less sombre or suggestive of sackcloth and ashes than in days gone by, and the only observance of the penitential

season is to be found in a more or less successful effort to prevent the still crowded character of the programme of the smart set from becoming public.

If there are any two forms of entertainment that figure more conspicuously than any others on the social calendar, they are tea parties, which enable those taking part therein to appear in Oriental costumes, for which there is so great a craze this winter, and dinners, probably because the fashionable world ought, strictly speaking, to be fasting.

While here in town there seems to be some lingering regard for Lent on the part of society, there is nothing of the kind at suburban and winter resorts, to which so many of its members have migrated without leaving any appreciable void here. Tuxedo, Lakewood, Ardley and the Meadow Brook district of Long Island are very gay, while from Alken, from Miami, St. Augustine and, above all, from Palm Beach come news of such an uninterrupted round of festivities that those who have gone South for rest and relaxation, after a period of tedious winter, are likely to come back even still more fatigued out than on their departure.

There is, however, one old-fashioned method of observing Lent in New York which has been retained, namely, the holding of sewing classes, which enable scores of women on the suburban and city outskirts to visit each other's houses for the purpose of doing some sewing for the poor and, incidentally, exchanging and discussing the news of the hour. The gossip is for the most part kindly and in keeping with the work, and the very fact that the work is for charity relieves the conversation of the imputation of uncharitableness.

Mrs. Richard Irvin's sewing class, which works for the Fresh Air Fund of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, will hold its first meeting on Tuesday morning at the house of Mrs. John H. Iselin, and to-morrow morning the class founded by the late Mrs. Frederic J. de Peyster, will meet at the East 86th street house of her daughter-in-law, Mrs. F. Ashton de Peyster. Mrs. E. J. Berwind entertained the sewing class which works for the Nursery and Child Hospital at her house on Friday morning last, and this week Mrs. William M. Kingsland will act as its hostess.

The Badminton Club, another essentially Lenten institution which has been in existence since 1